

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Of these, claims 1 and 9 are independent, and claims 17-20 are new. Favorable reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Specification

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner reminds Applicants of the proper content of the abstract. Applicants submit that the abstract is proper.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

The Examiner rejected claims 9-16 under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter because, according to the Examiner on page 3 of the Office Action, “they fail to provide a tangible result, as the applicant defines a machine-readable medium to include non-tangible mediums in the specification.”

Applicants have amended independent claim 9 to recite a “tangible machine readable medium.” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 101 rejections.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Turning to the art rejections, claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Rauen (U.S. Pub. 2004/0015408). As shown above, Applicants have amended the claims to

define the invention with greater clarity. In view of these clarifications and the arguments below, reconsideration and withdrawal of the art rejections are respectfully requested.

Independent claim 1

Claim 1, as amended, recites “a computer-implemented method of storing data in a first database, the method comprising: receiving data input in a data entry format via an interface ... identifying an error in the data; routing the data to a selected one of first and second error correction modules, the first and second error correction modules being configured to correct first and second types of data errors, respectively, the first and second types of data errors being different; receiving corrected data from the selected one of the first and second error correction modules; and storing the corrected data in the first database in the first data storage format.”

As shown above, the method of claim 1 recites first and second error correction modules configured to correct first and second types of data errors, where the first and second types of data errors are different. Unlike prior approaches in which data errors of different types are routed to a single error correction module, the method according to claim 1 selects one of a plurality of error correction modules that is configured to handle the type of error detected. For example data errors associated with a first product may be routed to a first error correction module, and data errors associated with a second, different product may be routed to another error correction module (see Applicant's specification at page 10, lines 14-18). Furthermore, using multiple error correction modules to correct different types of errors can streamline error correction by separating the correction of rare errors and common errors (see Applicant's

specification at page 10, lines 18-20). The applied art is not believed to disclose or to suggest the foregoing features of claim 1.

In this regard, there is nothing in Rauen that discloses or suggests “routing the data to a selected one of first and second error correction modules, the first and second error correction modules configured to correct first and second types of data errors, respectively, the first and second types of data errors being different; [and] receiving corrected data from the selected one of the first and second error correction modules.” In Rauen, by contrast, a single routine is called to handle data errors. For example, the passage of Rauen in paragraph [0552] describes using a single error handling subroutine for correcting data errors:

As shown in FIG. 22, data is entered at Yantra Input Port AIC 2205. Yantra_Inventory AIC then receives an input XML file in step 2210. Yantra_Inventory AIC calls the adjustInventory API in Yantra Server 1635 and attempts to adjust the inventory level in Yantra 225 in step 2215. If the inventory adjustment is successful then the processes is finished as shown in steps 2220 and 2225 respectively. If the inventory adjustment is not successful, then a subroutine LogError is first called and errors are logged. Subsequently, the ErrorHandling subroutine is called and appropriate error handling is performed in step 2230.

There is nothing in the foregoing passage to indicate, for example, that the Yantra_Inventory AIC selects the ErrorHandling subroutine from multiple error handling routines that are each configured to handle different types of data errors. Rather, the foregoing passage suggests that the ErrorHandling subroutine is automatically called in response to detecting errors in the data, regardless of the types of the errors detected.

Dependent claims 17-20

The method and computer program product according to claims 17 and 19, respectively, are directed to monitoring the workload of the first and second error correction modules and shifting error handling responsibilities from the first error correction module to a different error correction module in response to detecting that the workload of the first error correction module is higher than a desired workload. As described in Applicants' specification at least on page 11, lines 3-6, shifting error handling responsibilities from a first error correction module to another correction module when the workload of the first error correction module becomes too high, helps to ensure that the resources of the error correction modules are being used efficiently.

The method and computer program product according to claims 18 and 20, respectively, are directed to determining a desired timeframe for resolving the error detected in the data and sending a reminder to the selected one of the first and second error correction modules, the reminder including a request to resolve the error by the desired timeframe. For example, as described in Applicants' specification on page 10, lines 25-29, the timeframe may be determined based on the seriousness of the error (e.g., shorter timeframes may be determined for more serious errors). The system sends reminders to selected error correction modules to help ensure that errors are caught and resolved within the assigned timeframes (see Applicants' specification at page 11, lines 1-3). Nowhere does Rauen disclose or suggest the features of claims 17 and 18.

For at least the reasons discussed above, independent claim 1 is believed to distinguish over the applied art. Independent claim 9 recites limitations that are similar to the limitations of

claim 1. Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, claim 9 is believed to distinguish over the applied art.

Each of the dependent claims is also believed to define patentable features of the invention. Each dependent claim partakes of the novelty of its corresponding independent claim and, as such, has not been discussed specifically herein.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claims, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claims does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney can be reached at the address shown below. All telephone calls should be directed to the undersigned at 617-521-7896.

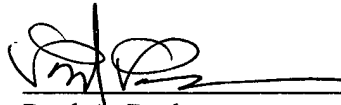
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Enclosed is a check for a two-month Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 13907-061001.

Respectfully submitted,

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